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The Council of Seventy.

The following members of the Council are thus far engaged for summer instruction at assemblies, in terms varying from two to twelve weeks :

Professors Charles F. Kent, Brown University ; Sylvester Burnham, Colgate University ; Herbert L. Willett, the University of Chicago ; Chancellor O. C. S. Wallace, McMaster University ; Professors George L. Robinson, McCormick Theological Seminary ; D. A. McClenahan, United Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Allegheny) ; A. W. Anthony, Cobb Divinity School. At the University of Chicago the following members of the Council will give courses during the summer quarter : Professors William R. Harper, Herbert L. Willett, James H. Breasted, Ernest D. Burton, Shailer Mathews, Clyde W. Votaw, George B. Foster.

In the last issue of the BIBLICAL WORLD mention was made of the committees of the Council which have been at work from year to year in the investigation of existing conditions in various fields of interest to Bible students. Perhaps the larger membership of the Council will be interested in knowing something of the method pursued by these committees. The first committee was appointed to prepare two lists of books, one upon Old Testament subjects and the other upon New Testament subjects, such lists to include each 100 of the books most necessary and helpful to the average minister or Bible student. The committee presented these lists for consideration one year later. It was decided that the lists would be much more helpful if they were divided into two sections, one for popular use and one for those who could read Hebrew or Greek ; also that they should be published with annotations. The committee consisted of Professor Gates, of Oberlin, and Professor Carrier, of McCormick Seminary, representing the Old Testament Chamber, and Professor Gilbert, of the Chicago Theological Seminary, and Dr. Votaw, of the University of Chicago, from the New Testament Chamber. The committee, to which the name of Professor Price, of the University of Chicago, has been added, and also Professors Zenos, Buckley, and Little, from the General Chamber, is still working

upon the lists, and it is expected that within a year a most convenient handbook will be published as the result of these labors.

The second committee was appointed for the purpose of investigating the condition of Bible study in the colleges of the country, and preparing a report of such conditions for the annual meeting of January, 1898. On this committee the following gentlemen served : Professor Gates, of Oberlin ; Professor Bradley, of Garrett Biblical Institute ; Professor Beecher, of Auburn ; Professor Sanders, of Yale, and Professor E. T. Harper, of the Chicago Theological Seminary. The method pursued by this committee was as follows :

A list of questions covering the information desired was sent to all the Protestant colleges listed in the National Educational Report. From the answers to these questions and from a study of the catalogues of all the colleges the report was carefully compiled. In the hundred pages which composed the report were many tables of valuable statistics. This material is now in type and will appear in the next report issued by the United States Bureau of Education.

The third committee, appointed at the annual meeting of January, 1898, was commissioned to make a thorough investigation of the Sunday-school lesson material issued by the various publishing houses. The members of this committee — Professor Mathews and Dr. Willett, of the University of Chicago ; Professor Sanders, of Yale ; President Burroughs, of Wabash College, and Professor Hayes, of Garrett Biblical Institute — apportioned the collection of material sent from the various publishing houses among themselves, and carefully examined as to content, presentation of thought, and typographical and other external work, all the material assigned them. These various reports were then combined in the full report presented by the chairman. The results of this work are now in the hands of the Council for publication or not, as shall seem wise. At all events, the information which the report contains is of very great value to the Council on account of the data concerning existing conditions which it contains.

The fourth committee, authorized at the recent annual meeting, will take up the investigation of the facilities for professional study (outside formal institutions of learning) available for ministers and Bible students. It will devote itself to library facilities, both public and private. To get at this information will perhaps be a more difficult task than that of any previous committee. The following method will be pursued as an experiment : In order to secure data upon the facilities provided by public libraries, a letter will be sent to one thousand

public libraries. This letter will request a printed or written list of books in each library bearing upon (*a*) the Old Testament, (*b*) the New Testament, (*c*) general theological books. It will also ask for a statement of the number of ministers using the library.

In order to secure data concerning the existing conditions in the private libraries of ministers, a letter will be sent to two thousand ministers. It will contain the following questions: (1) What is your religious denomination? (2) How long have you been preaching? (3) What formal preparation have you had for your work: (*a*) college course, (*b*) seminary course, (*c*) partial courses in either, (*d*) preparation outside of college and seminary? (4) How many books have you in your library? (5) How many of these are professional books: (*a*) upon the New Testament, (*b*) upon the Old Testament, (*c*) upon general theological topics? (6) How many have been added within the past ten years? (7) How many have been published within the last twenty years? (8) About what amount do you aim to spend annually for books and other professional literature? (9) To what professional papers and magazines do you have access? (10) What libraries are open to you? (11) What facilities for professional study do these libraries afford? (12) If not too much trouble, will you send on a separate sheet a list by title and author of the fifty books which you find most useful to you? (13) Does your Sunday-school library contain any books for the study of the Bible? (14) If so, what is the number and character of these?

While it is not believed that every minister to whom this letter is sent will give all the data, it is to be supposed that a sufficient number of replies will be received to make the statistics compiled from these reports representative of the average conditions.

In order that the report shall be in the end helpful, not only to the Council in showing it the needs of the profession, but also to ministers among whom it will be circulated, a list of books which, by a decision of the members of the whole body of the Council, shall be voted as practically necessary for a working minister's library will be appended.

The gentlemen who will be asked to serve upon this committee are Professors Henry C. King and E. I. Bosworth, of Oberlin; Professor M. W. Jacobus, of Hartford; Professor Rush Rhees, of Newton; Professor G. L. Robinson, of McCormick. Presidents John H. Barrows and William R. Harper are *ex officio* members of the committee.